

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 00198 152300Z

64

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0198

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TAGS: NATO, US, ASEC, OTRA

SUBJ: AIR TRAVEL BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

REF: (A) BC-D(74)3, STATE 177975, (C) PO/73/144

BEGIN SUMMARY: MISSION REQUESTS INSTRUCTIONS BY JANUARY 21, 1974
ON REGULAR USE BY SYG OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT FOR TRAVEL IN NATO
AREA IN VIEW OF SECURITY RISK OF COMMERCIAL AIR TRAVEL. END SUM-
MARY.

1. AT REQUEST OF SECRETARIAT, BUDGET COMMITTEE CONSIDERED
QUESTION OF AIR TRAVEL FOR SECRETARY GENERAL (REF A). SECRETARIAT
SUGGESTED USE OF CHARTER FIRM SUCH AS ABELAG (BELGIAN) WHICH
MEETS SECURITY REQUIREMENTS, OR ASSIGNMENT OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT
BY COUNTRIES VISITED. US, IN FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS REF B, PARA
2, REJECTED IDEA OF PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT OR USE OF
COMMERCIAL CHARTER, AND THIS POSITION WAS GENERALLY SUPPORTED BY
THE COMMITTEE. US ALSO SUGGESTED THAT SCHEDULED MILITARY FLIGHTS
OF NATO MEMBER COUNTRIES SHOULD BE USED TO MEET SECRETARY GEN-
ERAL'S TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS IF POSSIBLE, BUT COULD NOT STATE
WHETHER US WOULD REQUIRE REIMBURSEMENT. SECRETARIAT UNDERSTANDS
THAT MOST SCHEDULED US MILITARY AND MILITARY CHARTER FLIGHTS
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PAGE 02 NATO 00198 152300Z

ORIGINATE AND TERMINATE AT PLACES SOME CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE
FROM BRUSSELS AND WASHINGTON. CANADA INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO
CONSIDER SHARING WITH US PROVISION OF TRANSATLANTIC TRANSPORT
FOR SYG VISITS TO AND WITHIN NORTH AMERICA. THE CANADIAN REP

THOUGHT THAT IF CANADA AND THE US WERE WILLING TO DO THIS, THE OTHER MEMBERS SHOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE TRAVEL IN EUROPE, AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE.

2. COMMITTEE AGREED THAT SECRETARIAT SHOULD (1) CONTACT DELEGATIONS OF COUNTRIES TO BE VISITED FOR ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING AIR TRANSPORTATION FOR IMMINENT TRAVEL OF THE SYG (2) DISTRIBUTE A QUESTIONNAIRE TO MEMBER COUNTRIES REQUESTING INFORMATION ON FLIGHT SCHEDULES AND REIMBURSEMENT REQUIREMENTS.

3. MISSION SEES TWO ASPECTS THAT ARE WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION: (1) ALL FLIGHTS SHOULD BE ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS, THEREBY ENABLING COUNTRIES UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT TO PARTICIPATE AND (2) US AND CANADA SHOULD PRIMARILY TAKE CARE OF TRANSATLANTIC AND NORTH AMERICAN TRANSPORT, AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SHOULD PRIMARILY PROVIDE TRANSPORT IN EUROPE.

4. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON (1) WHETHER US CAN PROVIDE THE SYG WITH TRANSATLANTIC AND NORTH AMERICAN TRANSPORT VIA MILITARY AIRCRAFT (2) WHETHER REIMBURSEMENT IS REQUIRED AND THE AMOUNT OF SUCH REIMBURSEMENT, IF ANY, FOR TYPICAL FLIGHTS. THE SYG'S PARTY MAY AVERAGE 3 TO 5 PERSONS.

5. THE ENERGY CRISIS HAS BROUGHT A NEW FACTOR INTO PLAY, IN THAT MAXIMUM USE SHOULD BE MADE OF SCHEDULED MILITARY FLIGHTS. FOR EXAMPLE, SYG HAS A COMMITMENT IN LONDON ON JANUARY 25. USEUCOM COURIER FLIGHT ON JANUARY 24 WOULD PROBABLY MEET HIS TRAVEL NEEDS TO LONDON, PROVIDED USG SO AUTHORIZES. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE GUIDANCE BY JANUARY 21. RUMSFELD

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